

## SHALL THE LAW DENY MOTHER, WHOSE ONLY CRIME IS POVERTY, RIGHT TO SEE HER SON?



Mrs. Jennie O'Connor and her four children, photographed before they were separated from her. Top, left, William, 10; right, Eleanor, 12. Below, left, John 13; right, Florence, 15.

Philadelphia, April 17.—Johnnie O'Connor, 13, has been legally kidnapped.

Mrs. Jennie O'Connor, the boy's mother, who has not seen him for four years, wants to know where he is and the law refuses to tell her.

Rev. J. C. Stock, superintendent of the New Jersey Children's Home society at Trenton, where the boy was placed in 1912, knows where Johnnie is, but he won't tell and the law upholds him.

All officers of the society know too. They refuse to tell and the law upholds them.

Mrs. O'Connor has appealed time and again on the ground that she has a right to know where her boy is.

Cold legality says no.

What does humanity say?

The law points to Mrs. O'Connor

as one who committed the crime of poverty and says:

"You have no home of your own and you are not in a position to provide for John."

That is, in substance, what Rev. Stock wrote to W. B. Butler, assistant prosecutor of Camden county, where the official tried to help Mrs. O'Connor.

So the law takes the boy away, hides him from his mother, and entrusts him to strangers rather than the woman who brought him into this world, fed and nursed him through infancy and struggled through hardships so he may live.

Humanity points to Mrs. O'Connor as the unfortunate wife of a victim of tuberculosis and drink.

She was forced to give up Johnnie and her three other children, in October, 1912, go to work in a laundry